

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-24 and 26 are pending in this application.

Applicant notes that the claims presented in the Preliminary Amendment filed August 31, 2006 inadvertently omitted claim 25. Applicant has maintained the claim numbering in this Request for Reconsideration and asks the Examiner to renumber claim 26 as claim 25 in accordance with MPEP § 608.01(j).

Applicant's undersigned representative appreciates the Examiner extending the courtesy of the telephone interview on January 13, 2012. During the telephone interview, Applicant's undersigned representative pointed out to the Examiner that the outstanding Office Action dated November 14, 2011 failed to address Applicant's claims 21-24 and 26. The Examiner agreed to issue another Office Action addressing all of the pending claims upon Applicant filing a written response to the outstanding Office Action. As explained in the Examiner's Interview Summary dated January 25, 2012, the Examiner agreed that Applicant need not traverse the prior art rejections in the outstanding Office Action in this response to Office Action and will not hold this response to Office Action as non-responsive for failing to traverse the prior art rejections in the outstanding Office Action.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

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